

[Please amend Claims 1, 4-5, 15, and 19 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:

gingival and occlusal tie wings defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, each of the gingival and occlusal tie wings having a mesial/distal extent, said gingival wing comprising a gingivally-extending center leg and gingivally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, wherein said gingivally-extending center leg extends a greater distance from said archwire slot than each of said gingivally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, said occlusal wing comprising an occlusally-extending center leg and occlusally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, wherein said occlusally-extending center leg extends a greater distance from said archwire slot than each of said occlusally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions; [and,]

B 1
a first set of gingival and occlusal [ligating support means] notches, the gingival [ligating support means] notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said gingival tie wing and [including a sloped portion extending labially toward the archwire slot, and] the occlusal [ligating support means] notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said occlusal tie wing; and [and including a sloped portion extending labially towards the archwire slot, the sloped portions of the gingival and

occlusal ligating support means each comprising laterally displaced sidewall portions and a bottom portion which define a substantially arcuate surface]

Bent
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a second set of gingival and occlusal notches, the gingival notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said gingival tie wing and the occlusal notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said occlusal tie wing, said first set of notches being disposed on a mesial side of said bracket and said second set of
35 notches being disposed on a distal side of said bracket.

2 4. (Once Amended) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in Claim [3]1, wherein:

[said gingival tie wing further comprises a gingivally-extending center leg portion and gingivally-extending mesial
5 and distal tie wing tip portions;

B²
said occlusal tie wing further comprises an occlusally-extending center leg portion and occlusally-extending mesial and distal tie wing tip portions;

wherein] gingival edges of said gingival tie wing and
10 occlusal edges of said occlusal tie wing define an elliptical configuration.

3 5. (Once Amended) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in Claim [3]1, further comprising:

a first set of opposing convex sidewall portions and a first convex floor portion within said archwire slot,
5 wherein said first set of convex sidewall portions and said

first convex floor portion are positioned substantially between said gingival and occlusal [ligating support means] notches of said first set of [ligating support means] notches; and,

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B2 Cont'd
a second set of opposing convex sidewall portions and a second convex floor portion within said archwire slot, wherein said second set of convex sidewall portions and said second convex floor portion are positioned substantially between said gingival and occlusal notches [ligating support means] of said second set of [ligating support means] notches.

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B3 Sub D1
13¹⁵. (Twice Amended) An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:

a body comprising [mesial and distal] gingival and occlusal sidewalls;

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gingival and occlusal tie wings extending from said body and defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, wherein said gingival and occlusal tie wings are in a fixed position;

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an auxiliary slot extending entirely through said body from said [mesial] occlusal sidewall to said [distal] gingival sidewall; and,

an auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having a shaft portion positionable within said auxiliary slot;

15 said auxiliary slot and said shaft portion of said auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having complimentary configurations wherein rotational movement therebetween is restricted.

24 19. (Once Amended) An orthodontic bracket as recited in Claim 17, ²² wherein [said body portion comprises gingival and occlusal tie wings defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween,] said archwire slot [having] has a floor and [being] is generally mesially-distally extending.

Please add Claims 21-22 as follows:

-- 21. An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:
26 gingival and occlusal tie wings define a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, said archwire slot having opposing sidewalls and an adjoining floor;

a first convex portion extending labially from said floor and across said archwire slot;

a first auxiliary slot positioned under said convex portion;

a second convex portion extending labially from said floor and across said archwire slot; and,

a second auxiliary slot positioned under said second convex portion;

wherein said first convex portion and said first auxiliary slot are located on a mesial side of said bracket, and said second convex portion and said second auxiliary slot are located on a distal side of said bracket.

27. An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:

gingival and occlusal tie wings defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, each of the gingival and occlusal tie wings having a mesial/distal extent, said gingival tie wing further comprising a gingivally-extending center leg portion and gingivally-extending mesial and distal tie wing tip portions, said occlusal tie wing further comprising an occlusally-extending center leg portion and occlusally-extending mesial and distal tie wing tip portions, wherein gingival edges of said gingival tie wing and occlusal edges of said occlusal tie wing define an elliptical configuration.

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 8-12 were allowed. The Examiner also indicated that Claims 4 and 14 would be allowable if presented in independent form, and that Claim 20 would be allowable if presented in independent form and if the § 112 rejection of Claim 19 was corrected. The Examiner substantively rejected the remaining pending claims on various grounds. Each independent claim is separately addressed herein.